
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake Street, Room 103
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Date: April 13, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.

SOUTHEAST ALASKA DRIFT GILLNET FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sitka... The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announced today opening of the 2012 Southeast Alaska drift gillnet fishery beginning Monday, May 7. This opening is directed at returns of Stikine River and Taku River king salmon and will occur in the following areas:

District 8: will be open from 8:00 a.m., Monday, May 7, through 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 8, with the following restrictions:

Stikine River: waters off the Stikine River will be closed north and west of a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, and south and east of a line from the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island to the northern end of Coney Island to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore;

Beacon Point/Point Frederick Area: waters of Frederick Sound will be closed west of a line from the District 10 boundary one nautical mile off the Kupreanof Island shoreline to Sukoi Island Light to Point Frederick;

Bear Creek (Eastern Mitkof Island): waters of Frederick Sound will be closed south of 56°42.91' N. lat., and west of 132°41.38' W. long;

Wrangell Harbor Area: waters off the Stikine River will be closed within one-quarter mile of the shoreline on the western side of Wrangell Island north of the latitude of Cemetery Point.

Section 11-B: will be open from 12:01 p.m., Monday, May 7, through 11:59 p.m., Monday, May 7, with the following restrictions:

Stephens Passage: will be closed south of the latitude of Graves Point Light at 58°03.73' N latitude;

Taku Inlet: will be closed north of the latitude of Jaw Point at 58°16.80' N latitude.

Gillnet Gear Restrictions: The gear allowed will be the standard length and depth; from the first Monday in May through the second Saturday in June, **the minimum mesh size is 7 inches.**

Drift gillnet fishermen are asked to notify management biologists, who will be monitoring the fishery, of any incidences of steelhead catch. **Gillnetters are required to record any steelhead retained on fish tickets.**

The king salmon harvest share allocation, as determined by the Pacific Salmon Commission, is based only on large (over 28 inches) king salmon in both Districts 8 and 11. The department is discontinuing the use of species code 411 beginning in 2012 to account for small king salmon and instead will rely on ADF&G port sampling programs for that purpose. **For drift gillnet (as well as troll and set net) fisheries, only species code 410 should be used to report king salmon of all sizes.**

Directed king salmon troll fisheries will also occur in District 8 and 11. Information for troll fisheries will be announced in separate new releases.

The emergency order corresponding with this announcement is EO 1S0112.

News releases web site: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=cfnews.main>.

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<i>Gillnet Hotline</i>	225-6870	772-3700			465-8905	766-2830		